

Gov. Page (May, 1786): "I consider the extravagance which has seized them (my countrymen) as a more baneful evil than Toryism was during the war. It is the more so, as the example is set by the best and most amiable characters among us * * * These things have been more deeply impressed on my mind than what I have seen and heard in England. That nation hates us, their ministers hate us, and their King, more than all other men. * * * Our overtures of commercial arrangements have been treated with a derision which shows their firm persuasion, that we shall never unite to suppress their commerce or even impede it."

In France, Jefferson finally secured, by the most indefatigable exertions, some important advantages to American commerce. The new regulations, called the "Ordinance of Bernis," suppressed many duties on American products, abolished certain others for specific periods, and in general made concessions such as were granted to no other country besides America. The moral effects of the treaty were, to Jefferson, more important than the material results secured. He wrote Jay concerning it, in October, 1786: "It furnished a proof of the disposition of the King and his ministers to produce a more intimate intercourse between the two nations. Indeed, I must say that as far as I am able to see, the friendship of the people of this country toward us is cordial and general, and that it is a kind of security for the friendship of ministers who cannot, in any country, be uninfluenced by the voice of the people."

Jefferson's attention was drawn to a matter which afterwards became a problem of national importance. This related to the course to be pursued toward the Barbary powers. Every seafaring country of Europe had long submitted to the capture and confiscation of vessels flying their flag, and the holding of the crews for ransom. An American vessel was now, for the first time, subjected to this treatment. Adams and Jefferson, after consulting together, took opposite sides of the question. Jefferson took strong ground for forcibly putting a stop to such outrages; and in his request for instructions from Congress urged